

TODAY, the whole of this column is devoted to news of books and their authors.

This is expected to be the greatest publishing season since the war and, though the autumn's books, as they come out, will of course be reviewed in our literary pages, advanced news from the confuses of Publishers' Row will be of interest, I hope, to the great majority of my readers. To those who "already have a book" I apologise and say au revoir until next Sunday.

I now hand over to the foremost literary spy (he is unconnected with this newspaper) in London.

#### Fiction

**BIG** books mean big business. The longer the novel, the longer it absents itself from the shelves of the circulating library, the publisher's best friend. Small wonder, then, that Mr. Gollancz (with the Cresset Press) is pleased with Guy Endore's "King of Paris," a 200,000-word American Book-of-the-Month Club choice. It reconstructs—with gusto, it is safe to say—the lives of Dumas *père* & *Rs.* Herde, and, for that reason, Gollancz plans to publish another 200,000-worder in November: "And Walk in Love," a novel by Henriette Buckmaster, who makes St. Paul her central figure.

Even longer (this time from Collins) will be a 928-page American novel, "The Tongue," by Thomas Costain. With the greatest possible faith in the public's desire for quantity, Collins have prepared 100,000 copies of this saga of three families.

In October we shall see MacKinlay Kantor's "Andersonville" (W. H. Allen), which with its 768 pages has been proving of the order of popularity of "Gone With The Wind" in America. Known

there as "The Big A," it has taken the Pulitzer Prize. Here, the first printing of 60,000 copies will take forty tons of paper.

Not that our own novelists are shy of length. Nicholas Monsarrat takes rather more than 200,000 words to tell an exciting story of African racial problems: "The Thing That Lost Its Head" (Cassell). Miss Rebecca West, in "The Fountain, Overflows," approaches 175,000 words, and gives warning that it is only the first part of a marathon work running into several volumes. Macmillan take the initial plunge in November.

As might be expected, Jonathan Cape has at least one first novel lively enough to compete with such Goliaths: David Williams's "Agent From The West," said to be a humorous peep into Ruritanian forty years on. She has Secker and Warburg, who consider Jack Reynolds's "A Sort Of Beauty" worthy of a first print of 15,000 copies.

#### More Fiction

**BOTH** Putnam, with "The Sanity Inspectors" by Friedrich Deter and Methuen, with "The Old Umbrella" by Heinrich Lindenmann, introduce new foreign action in October. Nivelle Robert Kere translates "The Sanity Inspectors" from its original German: it concerns a priest and a psychiatrist. "The Old Umbrella" comes from Scandinavia with a ready-made reputation.

Hamish Hamilton has high hopes of a first novel with a "fairy-tale" title: "The Apprentices," by June Hooper, while a surprising first-novelist is Dr. C. S. Lewis (Bles), who retells the story of Psyche and Cupid in "Till We Have Faces,"

but not, it seems, without that quality creeping in.

Established novelists have been idle. Later this month Pamela Hansford Johnstone investigates love and conscience in "The Last Resort" (Macmillan); Alfred Duggan's "The Queen's Gambit" (Faber) tells of two young girls, and about in Julius Caesar's day. Rome is the locale of Alexander Baron's "Queen Of The East" (Collins), with Aurelian as Emperor.

William Sansom, faithful to his home ground, portrays in

"The Loving Eye" (Hogarth) a Londoner's obsession with a woman "across the way," while for those who recognise William Golding's worth in "Lord Of The Flies," there is his third—and, it is promised, terror-filled—novel, "Pincher Martin" (Faber).

#### Lives and Letters

**T**HE next two months are nicely seasoned with biographies. One of them, Georgia Battiscombe's "Mrs. Gladstone" (Constable), re-

married to a G.O.M. For admirers of "The Blessed Gir," Rupert Hart-Davis promises Lady Emily Lutyns's "The Birth Of Bowland," in which Lady Emily's parents are seen through letters exchanged during enforced separation before her elder brother's birth.

Letters: Virginia Wolf and Lytton Strachey (Chatto & Windus, with Hogarth) can

windfully be awaited as a fascinating product of two unusual minds. An unusual

choice for October, by Gerald Durrell (Hart-Davis).

The ever-growing literature choice for October, by Gerald Durrell (Hart-Davis).

A letter written by Bernard Shaw at twenty-one comprises receive many additions. "My Dear Dorothea" Douglas Bader introduces (Phoenix); it is the young "Wing Leader" by Group-Captain J. E. Johnson (Chatto & Windus). Group-Captain Peter Townsend, introducing "Lover Warlor" (Souvenir Press), says of its author, Belgian flyer Jean Offenberg, D.F.C.: "He was a redoubtable fighter, more serious than most, perhaps . . . with a turn of phrase and wit."

**I**N THE ONE THAT GOT Away" (Collins) with Michael Joseph, Kendall Burn, and James Leasor tell of Franz von Werra, who achieved temporary notoriety as the only German prisoner of war in Britain to escape successfully from camp. It has been left to novelist Gerald Tickell to reveal, in "Person of Interest" (Wingate), the inside story of the R.A.F.'s hazardous contact with enemy entertaining in the thirties.

#### The Wide World

**A** MONG travel books there is a Lord Kinnross's "Portrait of Greece" (Max Parrish), illustrated with forty full-colour photographs by the Greek cameraman Dimitri, obviously derived both pleasure and stimulus from the assignment. The camera is busy again in "Spring on an Arctic Island" (Gollancz), by Katherine Scherman, who writes of the Eskimos.

These lovable, generous people are again investigated in "The Last Kings of Thule," this time by a Gallic wit, Jean Malaurie (Alien and Unwin). A stranger record is Lobsang Samdup's "The Third Eye" (Socier), and Warburg, a lama's-eye view of life in a Tibetan monastery.

Endeavour on the high and below them is represented by Eric C. Hescock's "Round The World In Wandering III" (Oxford), an account of a thirty-foot journey in a thirty-foot yacht, and "Man Explores The Sea" James Dugan's ABC of underwater exploration (Harrap). Africa in travel books is never far away, and magic animals and children are anecdotally recalled by Alberto Dentil di Pirajno in "A Grave For A Dolphin" (Deutsch).

Light-heartedly, the Lifeman returns from New York in "Potter on America" (Hart-Davis); and it must be recorded for cookery-book enthusiasts who like travel-stained recipes that on the way is "Round The World In 80

surely will be "Mr. and Mrs. Davenports," by Frank Harris (Harrap), resulting from the discovery of Mrs. Patrick Campbell's "prompt copy" of the text of the play based on Oscar Wilde's scenario.

Harold Hobson edits the first "International Theatre Annual" (Calder), his contributors including playwrights Arthur Miller and John Whiting, and players Dame Sybil Thorndike and Sir Stanley记名。They may have to wait until November for the first full-dress biography of Beethoven Tree (Methuen), but the authorship is in capable hands; Hesketh Pearson (who once acted in his subject's company before writing) can be relied on not to spare the truth.